

Flathead County Emergency Medical Services Administrative Board Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 1:00pm

Flathead County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 625 Timberwolf Parkway

Members Present: Mary Granger, James Brower, Amy Vanterpool, Jordan Owen, Jacob Pitcher called in on GoTo Meetings

Others Present: Jennifer Rau, Warren Davis, John Thomson, Amy Beick, Sheriff Brian Heino

1. **Call to Order** Mary Granger called the meeting to order at 1:00:12pm without Ryan Pitts.
2. **Roll Call** Missing Ryan Pitts.
3. **Approval of Agenda** James Brower moved to approve the agenda. Amy Vanterpool second. Approved.
4. **Approval of MCI Policy** (1:10:40pm) Jordan Owen presented an overview of the policy.
 - The advisory committee reviewed the MCI Policy. The hospitals reviewed the DMCC part and there is agreement there. Dispatch has reviewed Dispatch Operations and there is agreement there too.
 - There are two high level components that are different from what exists now.
 1. An MCI Declaration is at 5 patients. This came from KRMCC with the idea that at 5 it would be used more frequently so it can be practiced. At a later date, it could be reevaluated and raised to a higher number. If the number is too high, then there are not a lot of opportunities to practice.
 2. Dispatch can declare an MCI if there are 10 victims or more, or an unknown number of victims with the potential for a lot. There is one call for service type and an alarm level. This will create an MCI or a large MCI. EMS at the scene could reevaluate.
 - Currently people are either hesitant to declare an MCI as it is not very familiar, or they want to wait until they get to a scene to decide which resources are needed.
 - The EMS agency was added as a notified person and a responder to the MCI as a formal support role.
 - Discussion ensued. In an effort to involve the fire chiefs in reviewing the MCI policy, an email will be sent out to the chiefs with the MCI and plans to discuss it at the next Chiefs' Meeting. The need for training was discussed. Communication with agencies regarding policies was emphasized as needing to happen more. Having a plan to introduce the policy was a concern. In the interest of having more people review the Prehospital portion of the MCI policy yet still provide Dispatch and the Hospitals with the planning they needed, it was agreed to separate out the Dispatch Operations and DMCC Operations sections and put those up for approval without the remaining MCI sections.
 - Mary Granger asked for a motion to approve the MCI Policy in its entirety. No motion. James Brower made a motion to approve policy 776.03 Dispatch Operations and 776.15 DMCC Operations. Jacob Pitcher second. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.
 - Mary Granger and James Brower would like to attend the next Chiefs' Meeting. James Brower will send the MCI policy out to all fire chiefs.
5. **Discuss EMS Manager Position Opening**
 - The job description has a few changes from the current one. A paramedic level is preferred, but not required. A preference for someone with ICS management background was included. The EMS Manager needs to be a licensed medical provider. The new description also includes managing policies as well as protocols.
 - The OES/EMS support position was approved through the commissioners. Jennifer Rau will need support from the EMS Board while Jordan Owen is gone. Jordan Owen is trying to mechanize a few more things and put them on the calendar.
 - The budget was discussed regarding requesting the full mill. Jordan Owen is working with Juanita Nelson. The education component should get us back to the 1 mill. Offering recurrent classes will help.
 - PHTLS was discussed. There are about 120 people interested in taking the class. It was suggested that people who have PHTLS but have not submitted it to the county be requested to send it in so there can

be an accurate accounting of how many people actually need the certification as well as how many people are expiring. There are 25 in the first class.

- Jordan Owen has not been able to work with Ryan Pitts (FVCC) to find out about getting class info. It was suggested to ask for bids for classes from Best Practice Medicine, FVCC, and Brodie Verworn. Jordan Owen suggested another option to unwind PHTLS for EMTs with a different approach such as designing a BTLS class (trauma class 8 hours). This would give every EMT a trauma class and the number of responders requiring a PHTLS class would come down.
 - The timeline for hiring a new EMS Manager was discussed. After the commissioners approve the job description changes, it will be open for two weeks. Interviews would follow with selections around the first week of April. There could be someone in place by the first week of May.
6. **Discussion with Sheriff Heino TBD** This was combined with the EMS Manager Position Opening Discussion.
7. **Review Refusal Policy** (2:00:39pm) Jordan Owen presented an overview of the policy.
- The goal is to have a little more oversight of the refusal process. It is comprised of a form and worksheets to determine competency and is adopted from the format of Page, Wolfberg, and Wirth, LLC. Dr. Briles likes it and wants to have the whole county do the same process. It is needed to have a formal process to protect the medical director's licensure and avoid having problems like law suits. It was suggested to include each agency's name on the form instead of just Flathead County since the litigation part is on the agency.

Mary Granger shared "on behalf of the board and county I feel fortunate having Jordan Owen as an employee for a year and a half. He has taken us to a whole new level. I hope we can continue in that level. Wish him best of luck." Jordan Owen responded "Thanks for supporting me. I think we are better off as a team." James Brower said "I agree." Jacob Pitcher stated "thanks for your time and commitment. Wish you best of luck."

MDT Jordan Owen presented an update on progress with the MDT.

MDT is finalized and a few people have had intro training. The license has to be on an iPad or android device. A cellular connection is preferred to keep the device connected. Jordan Dlack is going to be the manager of the overall interface. Jordan Owen will follow up with agency heads to get things ready to go. The training on the webinars is good. The application is really simple. It's not too steep of a learning curve. It can get out to people who have devices right away. Several agencies don't have qualifying devices yet. It is a yearly subscription. The board approved an initial license fee with the understanding there would be a \$100.00 maintenance fee per device. Next year it would be a \$2200.00 bill. At that point EMS agencies may want to pick up the cost. This would be a good time to evaluate whether all 22 devices are needed or being used.

8. **Future Meeting Date:** (2:15:00pm) April 13th, 2021 1:00pm
9. **Adjournment** (2:16:16pm)